Juvenile Delinquency - 1936

D.C.

Mrs. F.D. Is Hostess to Fifty-seven Girls

PA. OUTSIDE FENCE WATCHES CHILD.

By CONSTANCE E. H. DANIEL

WASHINGTON—While reporters with pencils poised, hovered around West Executive Avenue Saturday afternoon, a lone man stood patiently at the White House gates, occasionally moving closed to peer wistfully through the bars.

Somewhere inside those gates was his daughter, one of fifty-seven girls from the National Training School on Conduit Road for whom Mrs. Roosevelt, "ashamed and disgusted" at reform school conditions, was giving a garden party.

As he watched the curved driveway leading to the house, the father told a reporter how his little girl, then only eleven, had become involved in difficulty over ticket-selling at school, and had been placed on probation.

Later, when he lost his work and was unable to provide for her, she was sent to the reform school on Conduit Road. So the father, threadbare, but neat, and eminently respectable, watched the grassy slops, wondering which of the girls gathered in little groups on the sunny slopes, was his child.

The Training School girls attended en masse—no one was absent, but the same separation of races emphasized at the school was edhered to on the White House grounds—an arrangement that was announced on the radio Friday night.

The forty-six colored girls and eleven white girls definitely avoided each other other. The car carrying eight white girls rolled through the gates twenty minutes in advance of theh small fleet of cars that conveyed the others, and the whites had already been received by the First Lady and were strolling about the grounds when their fellow inmates arrivevd.

Old Jim Crow There

Dr. Carrie Smith, white, the new superintendent of the training school, would not go into the separation at the White House.

"I don't think that I should discuss that," she said. "After all that's up to the hostess," she said. "I dont think it would be to the advantage of any group to lay emphasis on such a minor incident, after such a gracious act on the part of Mrs. Roosevelt."

When it was pointed out that the girls arrived as two distinct groups, Dr. Smith admitted that they did, referring to the laws of the school which required segregation by race.

The girls, neatly dressed in cotton prints, moved about the grounds, at first timidly, later with more assurance, running hand in hand about the paths, occasionally waved back good naturedly by White House police, when the former ventured too near the gates.

Served by Waiters

Waiters moved swiftly about th flower-decorated table under the gaily-striped marquee, where silver tureens of ice cream and huge bowls of lemonade awaited the guests, after a personally conductd tour of the White House, with their hostess as guide.

As five o'clock drew near, the girls began to gather around the benches, and a few moments later, after shaking hands again with Mrs. Roosevelt, the fairy godmother, these cinderellas were on their way out of the gates, happy, bubbling with excitement, and all waving friendly goodbyes.

"A white passerby, poking an inquisitive nose indignantly through theiron pickets of the fence, bristled:

"The very idea—having all those dreadful girls out here to infect the public!"

But the threadbare father, whose little girl—no "delinquent" to him—had had her first real break, trudged away happy.

70 Negro Girls 11 Whites Feted By First Lady

Segregation at White House Luncheon for Delinquents Is Denied

5-26-36

Reports to the effect that the eighty-one girls who had been invited as a group from the National Training School for Girls "to have lunch and a good time at the White House" Saturday afternoon were segregated, were branded as untrue in advices from the Executive Mansion early this week.

Of the total number at the institution, conditions at which were described as "barbarous, medieval and inconceivable" by Mrs. Franklin D. Rosevelt, 70 are colored and 11 white. Inasmuch as the number of Negro girls is so far in excess of that of the white, any separation that took place, if any would have to be directed against the minority, it was held.

Three Decline Bid

The girls, with the exception of three, who took the afternoon "off" from their laborious tasks at the school at the invitation of the First Lady, enjoyed the hospitality of the President's home and were conducted by Mrs. Roosevelt herself on a tour of the mansion and ground. The three who declined the invitation of the First Lady chose to do other things than dine in the fashion of diplomats and celebrities. One, suffering teeth infection, visited a dentist. The other two had similar reasons.

Mrs. Roosevelt's invitation to the training school inmates followed her inspection of the institution where delinquent girls between the ages of 13 and 21, are confined. Her decision was reached after she had found conditions so deplorable that she was moved to do something "because as other young people enjoy an occasional good time, I think these youngsters should have an occasional good time and that is why I suggested they come to me for a party."

Common

Not sentiment but common sense, she said, dictated her invitation to the girls.

"It is a terrible thing to let yourself get sentimental about criminals," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "there are some who should be shut away from society with as little publicity as possible. I am not at all interested in a person set in criminal ways.

"What I am ted in is the great mass of who have to come back into society and should come back better equipped to meet the world. They have been defeated once and they may be defeated again."

What She Found

Some of the things Mrs. Roosevelt said she found at the National Training School on her tour of inspection were:

No books except those discarded by libraries.

Thirty-eight rats killed in one of the kitchens in one day.

No psychiatric service.

Laundry work is supposed to be taught as a means of equipping the girls to obtain work following their release from the home, but the laundry equipment there is so antequated that they would not know how to work in a modern plant.

Clothes too thin to allow the girls out of doors in the winter.

No athletics before the arrival of Dr. Carrie Weaver Smith, the new superintendent at the institution.

No full-time physician.

Dark corridors and cell blocks which lock automatically at night

Automobiles provided by the League of Women Voters drove the girls to the party.

D. C. Lawyers Called Boys by House Member

Dodson and Waters Flay Judge Bentley of the Juvenile Court

5-19-36

Referring to them as "boys," Representative Jack Nichols, of Oklahoma, told Thurman L. Dodson, former president of the Washington Bar Association, and James C. Waters, of the District Bar, that they had better transfer heir practice to some other city.

Dodson and Waters were testifying before a subcommittee of the House District Committee which has before it a bill to broaden the court's power and modernize its procedure. Their testimony was in opposition to the bill, which they said would make the Juvenile Court here as hated as the Bastille in France until it was torn down.

Judge Bentley Scored

A provision in the bill would permit the court to impose a maximum fine of $200 in contempt cases instead of the present maximum fine of $20 in the Juvenile and Police Courts, and $10 in the Municipal Court.

Terming Judge Fay L. Bentley of the Juvenile Court as being "tyrannical," "indiscreet," "contemptuous" and lacking in judicial temperament, Waters remarked:

"I can see that $200 placed on me for contempt in the Juvenile Court now. I am going to stay out of that court."

"You boys had better transfer your practice," came the rebuke from chaiman Nichols of the committee.

Measure Criticized

The provision of the measure that would give the judge discretionary authority to conduct proceedings in private was also criticized by Dodson and Waters.

Waters said he has had some experience before Juvenile Court, but it had always been "unpleasant." To give the court more power, he declared, "is apalling to me."

Waters told the committee that the court's attiutude was "don't demand a jury trial around here." It's better to plead guilty, he said. Some lawyers, Waters said, are afraid to ask for jury trials, because they know that if their client is convicted he will get the maximum penalty.

DISPATCH

Lexington S.C.

5/21/36

THE WHITE MAN'S PARTY.

Repercussions from the entertainment of some forty-odd negro girls by the first lady of the land are not surprising in the south, albeit little is being said about it by those newspapers which have often frothed at the mouth about the acts of republican president similar to the entertainment of the negroes in the White House by Mrs. Roosevelt.

We still believe a vast majority of the white people of the south are opposed to either social or political equality with the negro, but the present administration seems to have a bridle on many of the people below the Mason and Dixon line.

When Teddy Roosevelt, a Republican president, entertained Booker T. Washington, it created more of a furore in the south than has this later exploit of the wife of a democratic president. People born and reared in the north and east, even if they are Democrats, just don't get the right perspective of how the southern white people feel toward the black race, and they, even the president's wife, have little sympathy with the southerners in their determination to keep an inferior race in its place.

Had Mrs. Cleveland or Mrs. Wilson entertained negro girls in the White House there would have been a general explosion in Dixie; every newspaper would have directed a blast in their general direction, and such an act would most assuredly have precluded consideration of any man who endorsed it from the Democratic nomination.

But times are changing.

Now negroes are flocking to the Democratic standard in the north and east; a Chicago negro district has elected a Democratic negro to congress; Democrats are introducing anti-lynching bills in the United States congress and fighting for their passage, while some able Republicans are found fighting against this slap at the south.

All of which makes us wonder just which is the white man's party in this good year 1936!

Juvenile Delinquency - 1936

Georgia

ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION

JUL 5 - 1936

Training School For Wayward Negro Girls Is Urged

Editor Constitution: The Atlanta Federation of Colored Women's Clubs is vitally interested in the building of a training school for wayward colored girls of Fulton county. We have been working in our feeble way for several years on this project without making any progress, but the growing conviction of the necessity for such an institution pressing more and more strongly on us, we have come to the conclusion that we may obtain it only by the guidance and support of the white citizens of the county.

For this purpose we are addressing you and asking your support.

The wayward colored girl is the only minor who has not some sort of supervision and restriction thrown around those who, because of mental deficiency, the lack of home control and guidance, or other reasons, have become a menace to themselves and their neighbors, have no shool of correction.

We recognize the good work being done for the colored boys and see them transformed from low and dangerous characters to useful and law abiding citizens, and we wonder why our girls go alone unprotected to become the victim of the vagrant passerby.

We think it is much more important to so teach and school our girls in the right way of thinking and living than to put so much on the boys and leave the girls to shift for themselves. It has been said that the "hand which rocks the cradle rules the world" and if this is true of the white race is it not also true of the colored?

If you will help us keep our girls true and pure, then they will keep the boys to high and worthy morals.

Rosa Thomas, Ida F. Henderson, Hattie Green, Ruth Sellers, Leila Smith, Madeline Graves, committee.

Atlanta, Ga., July 3, 1936.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
July 5, 1936

NEGLECTED GROUP

On this page is presented communication signed by a group of negro women interested in social work among their race, in which it is urged that there be established in Fulton county a training school to care for the wayward negro girls of the community.

Fulton county now has a training school for wayward white girls, and reformatories for both white and negro boys who are incorrigible. Thus there are institutions to which the wayward members of every class of the youth in the county can be sent with the exception of negro girls.

Similar institutions to the one proposed have been established in other communities in Georgia and if they are being successful in reforming the girls committed to them, and thus in benefiting crime conditions generally, Fulton county should move toward the creation of a training school designed to lead wayward and criminally inclined negro girls into lives of usefulness.

The movement is backed by the Atlanta Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, which has done splendid work in improving conditions affecting the race, and the appeal of these organized negro women to the white citizens of the county deserves that a careful investigation as to the usefulness of such a training school be made.

Eastman, Ga., Times-Journal
July 9, 1936

NEW TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NEGRO GIRLS

The outstanding need in regard to the care of delinquent children in the State, has for years been the need of an institution for delinquent colored girls. Negro clubwomen, especially the Federation of Women's Clubs led by Mrs. H. A. Hunt, assisted by some of its white friends, have for years talked and worked for such an institution, and their efforts have at last been rewarded. One hundred and forty-one acres have been bought near Macon, with the money raised chiefly through the efforts of the negro clubwomen of the state. A WPA project has been approved, and construction of the buildings is now underway. The school will be run in connection with a farm, and after it is completed through the WPA project mentioned, the school will accommodate about sixty girls. No appropriation has yet been made by the state for the running of this school; this expense will be borne by the counties sending girls there, and by private donations, until a state appropriation is made.

It is hoped that the school will be ready for its first inmates by January 1, 1937.

The national Florence Crittenton Association has pledged its support and cooperation in the project. There will be cottages for unwed mothers entirely separate from the other buildings.

Funds for the completion of the institution and for the maintenance at the present time are needed, so any one wishing to contribute may send contribution to Mrs. J. H. Gadson, Treasurer, State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Central City College, Macon, Georgia.

Juvenile Delinquency—1936

Louisiana

Alexandria, La. Town Talk
April 9, 1936

The Negro Juvenile Problem

A problem that is harassing and perplexing the police and juvenile authorities, not only in Alexandria, but in other cities of the State, is that of the negro juvenile. It is pointed out that negro juveniles are becoming more numerous every day, and the question of handling them is constantly becoming more perplexing.

The present juvenile law does not permit their confinement in jail, and there is no place for them at the State Reformatory. Consequently when a negro juvenile commits a crime, there is nothing to do, but to turn him loose on the community to continue the commission of crime, and to finally become a hardened criminal.

The legislature at its next session should either make provision to take care of negro juveniles at the Monroe institution, or should establish a separate institution, in some other parish, where they can be sent, when they are convicted in the juvenile courts.

If this is not done, then the law should be amended so that they can be confined. Under present conditions, they feel that they are immune from punishment, and are thereby emboldened to commit crime. A large proportion of the petty thefts and robberies of a more serious nature, in Alexandria and in other cities of the State, are committed by negro juveniles. They are a menace to the communities which are infested with their obnoxious presence, and give the police authorities no end of trouble.

The Town Talk is fully cognizant of the intent of the law, prohibiting their confinement, the purpose of which is to bring about a reformation, and direct them in paths of rectitude and propriety, but it seems to have had the opposite affect.

Therefore, we hope that our Senator and the members of the lower house from this parish, will give due consideration to this important subject, when the legislature convenes, and endeavor to have an act passed providing for the establishment of an institution where negro juveniles, who commit crime, can be sent, taught some useful occupation, and thus prevent them from continuing on their criminal career, instead of releasing them after each and every offense, to further pursue their depradations.

ALEXANDRIA, LA.
TOWN TALK

APR 9 1936

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Juvenile Delinquency-1936

Mississippi.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
February 10, 1936

A NEGRO LEADER WRITES

Produced herewith is a letter from J. E. Johnson, one of the most wholesome negro workers in Mississippi. Over at Prentiss he has done a job, on a smaller scale, but much akin to the program of the late Booker T. Washington.

The task of helping delinquent negro children is one that commands our attention. It is a social challenge. It so happens that the present legislature is faced by emergency problems which makes consideration of a new institution a very difficult task. Nevertheless this does not diminish the fact that the cause remains unmoved, and the cost of neglect in this instance goes on and on. Society must foot the bill whether through a small legislative appropriation or the usual huge toll extracted both directly and indirectly from society. This letter certainly conveys a forceful message.

Prentiss, Mississippi
February 1, 1936

Editor Daily Enterprise:

Enclosed you will find a copy of an appeal that is being circulated among white friends by the Committee of One Hundred. This is an organization composed of a leading Negro citizen from every county in the state and eighteen from the state at large. The petition is asking for a Home to be provided by the present Legislature for delinquent and incorrigible Negro youth.

Mere children of our group are still sent to penal institutions—even to Parchman—for petty crimes; many of whom return to society worse citizens than when they left. For twelve years we have petitioned the legislature for this reform with the result that a bill was passed by the Senate, but not considered further. For eight years, under the leadership of the Colored Women's State Federation Clubs, we have attempted to found and maintain a Home by voluntary contributions—only to find this huge task too much for us.

We now turn again to the State, but we will fail again unless you assist us. Please do us the kindness to keep the importance of the matter before the public through your paper, personally or by communication.

Remember Mississippi is the only state in the Union that has not provided an opportunity for Negro delinquent youth to be redeemed to good citizenship. The womanhood of our race is praying for this chance. A million people who love Mississippi and who have faith in your sense of fair play and justice join us unhesitatingly in aking you to do your best to have favorable action taken on our earnest request at this sitting of the State Legislature. Yours gratefully.

J. E. JOHNSON, State Chairman.

No Reformatory For Juveniles In Jackson

Atlanta Daily World
9-7-36

JACKSON, Miss. (ANP) — Lack of a reformatory in any port of the state for Negro boys is causing Chief of Police John E. Simmons of Jackson to spend time wondering what to do with the colored juvenile delinquents of this city. Atlanta, Ga.

According to the chief, thousands of dollars each year are lost through the escapades of these boys ranging in age from 6 to 14. Carrying them consistantly to police court has made their handling difficult for the police. As there is no state institution where they may be committed, officers are hesitant about hauling them into police court on charges of stealing or burglary as this means they will be bound over to the grand jury and probably sent to the state penitentiary where their contact with older and hardened criminals may ruin them for life.

In Jackson there is reputedly one gang of 20 or more youngsters who do nothing but prowl the streets and ransack parked automobiles. Two 12 year old boys on Friday were bound over in police court on charges of burglary and thefts after police caught them stealing from parked autos.

So much of this has been going on lately that Chief Simmons said he and his department were at their wits' end, adding, "I wish the governor and the legislature would take notice of this vital problem and do something about it. There should be a place for such offenders."

Juvenile Delinquency - 1936

North Carolina

Wilmington N. C. News
April 21, 1936

Assistance Proposed For Delinquent Negro Girls In N. Carolina

WINSTON SALEM, April 24.—(AP)—The North Carolina Commission on Interracial cooperation launched a movement today to have the state provide adequately for delinquent negro girls.

The commission, holding its annual meeting here yesterday, authorized its executive committee to work with other organizations to obtain recognition of the problem, set forth in an address by Mrs. W. T. Bost, Sstate superintendent of public welfare.

C. C. Spaulding, negro insurance executive of Durham, appealed for "simple justice" for his race, while other speakers discussed economic and welfare problems affecting the races.

Dr. Howard W. Odom, of Chapel Hill, was re-elected chairman of the commission. J. W. Seabrook of Fayetteville and W. A. Stansbury, Greensboro, were elected vice chairmen.

N. C. Newbold, Raleigh, was elected chairman of the steering committe; C. C. Spaulding of Durham, secretary-treasurer; Gurney P. Hood Raleigh, chairman of the finance committee, and L. L. Reynolds Chapel Hill, director.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1936

Oklahoma

HERALD

Shawnee, Okla.
6/12/36

The Negro Boys from Boley who were charged with rifling the postoffice there sometime ago, were before Federal Judge Williams Tuesday. Judge Williams refused to send them to the penitentiary. He agreed to parole them if their fathers would whip them. Each father being the judge as to the severeness of the punishment, which had to be done in the presence of a deputy United States marshal.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1936

Tennessee

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
May 25, 1936

EPILEPTIC NEGRO COUNTY PROBLEM

Cited as Example for Need of State Institution.

There's No Place to Treat Colored Feeble-Minded, Lively Asserts.

Using as an example a young Negro epileptic who had been returned from the state training school for colored boys at Pikeville because he was stricken in his classrooms and needed medical attention, Probation Officer John J. Lively, Jr., said yesterday that the state should maintain an institution for feeble-minded colored children.

"The state of Tennessee has no place for the treatment of colored children of either sex," Mr. Lively said. "The state maintains a home for feeble-minded white children at Donelson, Tenn., but they do not accept colored children.

"There are many cases of feeble-minded colored children in the city and several are being held at Pikeville when they really should not be there.

"Authorities say that an institution for colored children of this type must be furnished or many children of the colored race will not be given a chance to recover from these tragic conditions."

Colored Pastors to Meet.

Mr. Lively asserted Juvenile Judge L. D. Miller would call a meeting of colored pastors in the city within the next few days and see if some method can be worked out for an organized appeal to the legislature.

The case which provoked this outburst from the probation officer was that of a young 12-year-old epileptic colored boy who was brought back to juvenile court from Pikeville a week ago because of his health.

"This child has no parents," he said, "having been taken by a woman when he was a baby and raised to the present time.

"He was before juvenile court twice before. On one occasion he had thrown a lighted lamp against the wall and assaulted a neighbor with a butcher knife. He was brought into court a second time after setting fire to a woman's dress while she was sleeping. At this time the court committed him to the school at Pikeville.

"About a week ago, Mr. Mitchell, the superintendent at the school, informed me the boy would have to be removed, as he was having frequent epileptic fits and he had no way to treat him. After he had been home for about two days, he struck a woman in the head with a rock and injured her severely.

"The boy is dangerous to himself and to others and there is no place where he can be admitted for treatment. He will not be admitted at Silverdale because of his age and Judge Miller called County Physician J. C. Eldridge in on the case.

"Dr. Eldridge explained that there was no chance to place the boy in any of the institutions over the state and the authorities do not know what to do."

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
June 12, 1936

NEGRO PAROLE OFFICER TO BE ASKED OF COURT

Home for Delinquent Negro Girls Also Requested of Finance Board.

County court will be asked to consider the appointment of a Negro women's probation officer and the establishment of a home for delinquent Negro girls when it convenes July 6.

A Negro delegation yesterday asked the county court finance committee, holding the first of a series of three open meetings preliminary to the meeting of county court, to include these recommendations in its report to the court.

Both the probation officer and the home, if created, will be under the direction of Judge Hu B. Webster of domestic relations and juvenile courts.

Seven delegations appeared before the committee yesterday to present requests for appropriations. They represented:

John Tarleton institute, which asks for a 5-cent levy.

Mothers' Pension fund, which asks for $36,000.

Juvenile court, which asks for $11,635.

Dale Avenue Settlement house, which asks for $1,000

Knoxville Colored orphanage, which asks for $2,500.

The finance committee will hold open meetings next Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a. m. to hear further delegations who desire to present requests for appropriations. The following week will be occupied with closed meetings, at which the various requests made will be considered, a budget drafted, and the tax rate fixed.

The committee will send each member of county court a copy of the proposed budget and tax rate five days before county court convenes.

Members of the finance committee are squires J. C. Strong, chairman; T. W. Prater, secretary; A. L. Wells, J. M. Moulden, G. C. Swaggerty, L. M. Scruggs and Joel Rudder. County Judge S. O. Houston is an ex-officio member.

Juvenile Delinquency-1936

Virginia.
6

J. M. Gandy Preaches For Rev. L. Downing

Roanoke Pastor Celebrates Forty Second Anniversary At Old Church

ROANOKE, Va.—President John M. Gandy of Virginia State College was the guest speaker during the 42nd anniversary of the Rev. L. L. Downing of the Fifth Ave. Presbyterian Church last Sunday. Rev. Mr. Downing is the oldest minister

Rev. Mr. Downing was the first probation officer of the city and is still working in this capacity.